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Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Committee on the Rights of the Child
Seventy-first session

Summary record (partial)* of the 2053rd meeting
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Monday, 11 January 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Mezmur

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* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Opening of the session

1. **The Chair** declared open the seventy-first session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Statement by the representative of the Secretary-General

2. **Mr. Nowosad** (Chief, Groups in Focus Section, Human Rights Treaties Division, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)), said that in the previous year the Committee had reviewed and adopted concluding observations on 44 States parties' reports and had begun to review its first complaints and requests to conduct inquiries under the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OPIC). The recent ratification of the Convention by Somalia brought it close to universal ratification, with only one State remaining. Furthermore, the Secretary-General had started to implement the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/157 on the rights of the child and by the Committee in accordance with the Convention.

3. With regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/268 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, the Committee had succeeded in reducing its backlog of reports awaiting consideration, and the adoption of 18 concluding observations in the current session would reduce the backlog further. However, the workload under OPIC was increasing, which would need to be reflected in the Secretary-General's report on the progress made in implementation of the resolution.

4. The Committee had also continued its work on increasing the harmonization of working methods across treaty bodies through the simplified reporting procedure and by streamlining concluding observations. The Committee's discussion of the possible adoption in the near future of the San José Guidelines against Intimidation or Reprisals, as well as the common methodology for the adoption of general comments, would serve as a means of reinforcing the collective work of all treaty bodies.

5. In view of the recent call by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica for academic institutions to contribute to the 2020 review of the treaty body system by the General Assembly, the Swiss Government and the Geneva Academy had recently held a meeting involving academics worldwide in order to brainstorm ideas and to launch an independent research process. Moreover, the Handbook for Human Rights Treaty Body Members had recently been made available in English and a dedicated webpage on treaty body elections had been set up, both of which would assist States in electing competent treaty body members.

6. Several goals and targets in the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development focused on children's rights, and a specific target was dedicated to ending all forms of violence against children. In that regard, all treaty bodies were encouraged to consider how best to contribute to monitoring progress towards attainment of the relevant goals and targets.

Submission of reports by States parties

7. **Ms. Franchetti** (Secretariat) said that four reports had been received since the Committee's previous session, bringing the number of reports awaiting consideration to 57. Nauru, Lebanon and Mongolia had submitted reports on the implementation of the Convention, and the initial report of Tonga was overdue.

8. The total number of ratifications of the Convention stood at 196, following the recent ratification by Somalia. Three States (Bahamas, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia) had ratified the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC) since the previous session, bringing the total number of ratifications to 162. Two States (Bahamas and Kiribati) had ratified the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (OPSC) since the previous session, bringing the total number of ratifications to 171. One initial report under the OPSC had also been submitted, by the Russian Federation, since the previous session.

Organization of work

9. **The Chair**, reviewing the items on the agenda, said that 18 reports from 14 States parties would be considered by the Committee during the session. He welcomed the many partners who contributed to the Committee's work. Discussions would continue on treaty body strengthening and on OPIC, and any communications received under that Optional Protocol would be considered. The Committee would also continue preparations for its next day of general discussion, continue its work on four general comments, and discuss any other matters relating to its work.

Adoption of the agenda (CRC/C/71/1)

10. *The agenda was adopted.*

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 10.30 a.m.